

Flying start!

National Cagers Stun Filipino Champions In Asiad Opener



BOC vice-president HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa joins Bahrain's basketball team and officials in their dressing-room celebrations

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's national basketball team made a winning start to their 20th Asian Games campaign yesterday, defeating defending champions the Philippines 89-85 in Group C.

The nationals controlled much of the contest at Aichi International Arena in Nagoya, leading by as many as 16 points before holding off a determined Filipino comeback in front of 7,557 spectators.

JaKarr Sampson led the way with 24 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists, narrowly missing a triple-double. Elijah Thomas and Mustafa Hussain contributed 20 points apiece to the victory.

Slobodan Subotic's men made their intentions clear by scoring the opening eight points. They maintained that advantage throughout the first quarter, with a late Hussain three-pointer sending the kingdom into the second period 29-21 ahead.

The champions fought back before half-time and briefly took a 43-41 lead. Thomas quickly drew Bahrain level, Uros Ilic struck from long range and Sampson added another three-pointer at the buzzer to restore a 49-43 advantage.

Carrying that momentum into

the second half, the Bahrainis extended their unanswered run to 13 points and began to pull away. Thomas continued to make his presence felt, while Sampson created openings and Hussain delivered several important baskets.

Captain Ahmed Alderazi then closed an impressive third quarter with a three-pointer, giving the national side a 76-61 cushion heading into the final period.

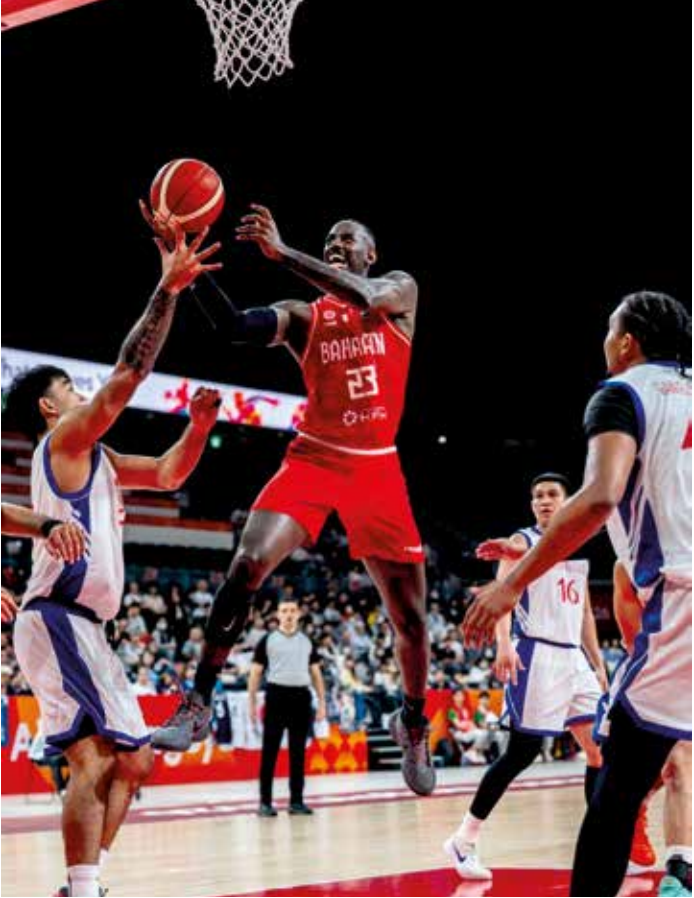
The Filipinos mounted a late charge through Calvin Oftana, but Sampson's final basket kept Bahrain 89-78 ahead with just over three minutes remaining.

Adrian Nocum and Justine Baltazar helped reduce the deficit before Celedonio Trollano struck from long range with 11 seconds left, bringing the Philippines within four points.

Ahmed Haji missed two free throws in the closing seconds, giving the holders one last opportunity. Sedrick Barefield could not convert their final three-point attempt, however, allowing the nationals to celebrate an impressive opening victory.

Oftana finished as the game's leading scorer with 31 points, while Nocum added 14 and Baltazar contributed 10.

In the other Pool C fixture, China opened their campaign with a 99-61 victory over Kazakhstan. Elsewhere, South Ko-



JaKarr Sampson drives for a contested lay-up

rea defeated Indonesia 102-48 in Pool A, while hosts Japan overcame Saudi Arabia 86-80.

Subotic's side return to action today against China at 10am, Bahrain time, before completing their preliminary-round programme against Kazakhstan at 4am on Monday.

The top two teams from each of the three pools will advance to the quarter-finals alongside the two best third-placed sides.

Sanad makes WTT feeder history



Rashed Sanad in action during his campaign in the Philippines

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain table tennis player Rashed Khalid Sanad's historic run at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Puerto Princesa 2026 ended in the last 16 yesterday.

Sanad became the first Bahraini to reach that stage of a senior WTT Feeder event before losing 3-1 to Yang Hao-Jen of Chinese Taipei at the Edward S Hagedorn Coliseum in the Philippines.

The national team player made a promising start by taking the opening game 11-9. Yang responded strongly, however, winning the next three 11-4, 11-6 and 11-6 to advance to the quarter-finals.

Sanad had earlier topped

Group One with three straight victories, defeating Filipino Elijah Yamson and Indonesian pair Affan Pratama and Braydon Susilo.

He then edged a Malaysian opponent 3-2 in a tight last-32 encounter to book his place in the last 16.

His next assignment is the WTT Feeder Bangkok 2026, where he is entered in the men's singles competition from September 14 to 18.

Sanad will then join Mohammed Nader Alaali, Alsayed Murtadha Hussain and Mohammed Abbas Saleh in the kingdom's four-member squad for the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The table tennis competition runs from September 20 to 28.

Chess Federation signs partnership



Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Chess Federation has officially designated GET Holding (Gulf Cooperation For Technology), a prominent enterprise in the healthcare sector, as its Official Title Sponsor for the 2026 season following the signing of a strategic partnership agreement.

The collaboration aims to drive youth development, athletic excellence, and community engagement throughout the Kingdom. By joining forces, both organizations plan to empower rising talent by fostering strategic thinking, discipline, and lifelong intellectual growth.

Bahrain Chess Federation President Anmar Ahmadi welcomed the partnership, noting that GET Holding's leadership in the healthcare industry aligns with the federation's mission to invest in human potential through education, innovation, and pursuit of excellence.

Dr. Khaled Alawadhi, Chief



Executive Officer of Gulf Cooperation For Technology, highlighted that supporting intellectual growth and youth welfare reflects the company's core corporate values. He expressed enthusiasm for advancing the sport and contributing to its ongoing growth across Bahrain.

The Bahrain Chess Federation expressed appreciation for the company's backing as both entities prepare to deliver a dynamic 2026 season aimed at inspiring the next generation of players and strengthening the local sporting community.

United boss Carrick dismisses Anderson's 'kings of Manchester' jibe

AFP | Manchester

Manchester United boss Michael Carrick has dismissed Elliot Anderson's jibe that City are "kings of Manchester" ahead of Sunday's derby.

Already trailing five points behind their bitter rivals, United will face Manchester City at Old Trafford with Anderson's taunt ringing in their ears.

Anderson joined City from Nottingham Forest for £116 million (\$156 million) in the close-season after United refused to enter a bidding war for the England midfielder.

The 23-year-old can expect a hostile reception from United fans after adding fuel to the Manchester rivalry.

"For as long as I've known Manchester, City have been the



Manchester United's English head coach Michael Carrick (C) takes a team training session (file photo)

kings of Manchester," Anderson said following his arrival at the Etihad Stadium.

City have been top dogs in Manchester since Alex Ferguson retired after winning the

Premier League with United in 2013, finishing above them every season since then.

In that time, City won seven Premier League titles and the Champions League among countless other trophies.

But, despite United's lack of success in comparison to City, Carrick refused to agree with Anderson's assessment of the current balance of power in Manchester.

"I'm definitely not using that phrase at all, no," said Carrick, who led United to a 2-0 win over City in the most recent derby in January.

"We're humble enough and realistic enough to know where we've come from in recent history, and we need to and want to be better, and we want to be challenging more."